

**Selectmen's Meeting
Monday, March 6, 2023**

Chairman Les Babb called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectmen Les Babb, Ernie Day and Melissa Florio, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded these minutes. This meeting was held at the Town Office.

Also in attendance was Scott Brooks, Jamie Mullen, Rob Cunio, Stacy Bolduc and Charlene MacCurtain.

Review of Mail, Sign Manifests, Approval of Minutes:

The accounts payable and payroll manifests, and red folder including correspondence was reviewed.

Ernie made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2023 Selectmen's Meetings and Non-Public Session. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

A subpoena was received requesting a variety of documents pertaining to the town's landfill monitoring for the State of NH vs. 3M Corp. case. The subpoena has been forwarded to the Town's attorney and they have attempted to contact the attorney requesting the information. She will follow up mid-week if no response is made. The request is for all information to be provided by March 22, which is short turnaround, especially during Town Meeting season. Brief discussion on PFA monitoring requirements more recently implemented and question of how much information will actually be able to be provided. Melissa stated the acceptable level of PFAs has changed so there will likely be signs of PFAs shown in the test results. Testing is now conducted annually.

A settlement check presented to Susan Harris for services rendered has been returned to the town with a letter of refusal. No further action to be taken.

Department Head Updates:

Highway Department – Road Agent Scott Brooks reported snow removal and road treatment has gone well. The roads are reportedly soft. Permission is being granted to travel outside of the road posting prior to 10:00 am for this week until the roads soften more. There is minimal frost remaining in the roads. Ernie questioned if Scott received a call from Durgin Hill Road regarding the garage. Confirmed.

Police Department – Chief Jamie Mullen stated that part-time Officer Tyler Eldridge has been promoted to Sergeant in Effingham, and will continue to provide part-time support to Freedom. Radars are being recertified, vehicles maintained, April-May schedule set, and Officer Diaz has been available to fill in shifts as needed, part-time. Jamie has been meeting with Effingham's Chief Joe Duchesne to review policies and their mutual aid agreement. Discussion regarding Corporal Will French's interest in the K9 Program and research into feasibility. Jamie is considering the interest in exchange for a 4-year employment contract and will be seeking donations and grant funding. Jamie reported staff coverage consists of 3 regular full-time and 1 regular part-time officer. Melissa provided feedback she received on how nice it is to see the police presence out patrolling.

Fire-Rescue Department – Chief Rob Cunio reported call volume including 3 medical aid, 1 service call, and 1 mutual aid - fire. The annual service and maintenance of the Lucas device is scheduled for Friday. Rob will be attending the Chief's meeting on Monday, 3/20 and Fire Wardens training on

3/27, so he will be absent from Selectmen's Meetings for those two weeks. Activity is slow but welcomed. Les questioned a house fire in Porter. Rob responded that it occurred almost two months ago resulting from a chimney fire.

Town Office – Administrator Ellen White reported 2022 Annual Reports arrived last Thursday and are out for distribution. The web version has been posted on the town's website. Stacy is assisting with assembling the packets of material for Town Meeting including all backup information for warrant articles. Request made for any other information the Selectmen would like to have available. Les requested all health agency requests as well as backup department budget information. Ellen will have her budget book available to reference. The audit is still in process. The Library provided all their documentation to be scanned on Friday and requests are being fulfilled as they are made. A progress invoice was received today for approximately half the total cost of the audit so things are progressing well. Ellen questioned the plan for next week's meeting? Les suggested a meeting time of 6:00 PM to sign the manifests and then adjourn to attend the school's annual meeting. Ellen stated that she reached out to John Hatch at Action Ambulance regarding the addition of the Lucas device to the addendum and he has authorized it to be added in.

Transfer Station – Charlene MacCurtain reported an inspection was completed last Friday by the Department of Labor and several items require corrective action including exit signs, railings, hazardous waste storage, ladder storage, etc. The inspector is willing to work with the town through the deficiencies and will be giving 30-days to take corrective action once the findings are provided in writing. Several specific items were discussed. The Board was in favor of bringing in Clean Harbors to remove and mitigate the hazardous materials. Tires are being stockpiled while only a limited quantity can go out with each container so an outside source may need to be contacted to remove them. Rob will assist with appropriate emergency exit signs. Charlene reviewed other suggestions related to access to the compactor and construction bins. Scott questions the amount of hydraulic oil being stored and suggests that since all maintenance is being completed at the garage, it be removed. Gas and oil for the snowblower should be the only fluids stored and can go in the cabinet. Charlene will provide a copy of the information she received from the inspector for the office to have on file.

Scott stated the pine needle storage pile should be brought forward and along with the stockpile of masonry rubble and used to fill the low spot of the new entrance to the Transfer Station.

Appointment(s):

Not applicable.

Public Input:

None presented.

Old / New Business / Discussion:

Les commented on the need for bus drivers. Two are out on medical leave, one has resigned as of Friday, and only one remains available to work.

Discussion regarding the handicap railing that was removed by the plow over the weekend. Scott has lumber materials at the garage to put up a temporary railing with caution tape to be supplied by Rob. Ellen has taken photos and will be submitting a claim to insurance for the repair/replacement cost.

Non-Public Session(s):

Ernie made a motion enter into a non-public session at 7:20 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c), reputation. Les seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Ernie-yes, Melissa-yes, Les-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Les made a motion to resume public session at 7:24 PM. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Les made a motion enter into a non-public session at 7:24 PM pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a), personnel, and RSA 91-A:3, II (c), reputation. Melissa seconded. Roll call vote was taken: Ernie-yes, Melissa-yes, Les-yes. All in favor, the motion passed. Les made a motion to resume public session at 7:30 PM. Melissa seconded. All in favor, the motion passed.

Discussion continued:

A call received by the Town Office from Sarah Tabor stating that three of her granite posts have been removed during snowplowing. It appears this may have been done by the State trucks as they are responsible for maintaining Old Portland Road.

Another complaint received by the Town Office from Steve Ruggeiro on Pequawket Trail whose mailbox has been hit during the past three storms. Scott reviewed the conversation he has had with the property owner requesting he move the mailbox to the other side of the driveway. There is apparently concern with the post office delivering to the new proposed location. Scott stated that if the mailbox is moved to the other side (leading edge) of the driveway and is located 5' from the face of the pavement as he told the property owner, it should no longer be an issue.

Another known issue with mailbox location is at Sean Coriaty's property.

Scott reviewed with the Board an incident one of the highway members had with property owners in Square Brook. The property owner is contesting where the snow is put in relation to their corner lot referring to a court order. Scott provided the Board with a copy of the court order to be included in the file, which does not state anything of the sort. He provided a history on the property and what has been done to resolve their complaints of failed septic and water saturating the home.

Additional discussion regarding challenges the highway crew has been experiencing with snow removal and winter maintenance in Square Brook specifically. From property owners plowing snow into the road, cleaning off vehicles in the road, use of snowmobiles, etc. The Board was in agreement that Square Brook Association should be noticed that at the end of the season, there will be no further winter maintenance as a result of issues experienced over several years. Scott stated that there will likely be a petition forthcoming for the town to take over the road maintenance but the roads do not meet the subdivision regulations. A letter from the Board of Selectmen will be drafted for signatures.

Ellen presented a question raised by Jim Rines regarding the road layout project he is working on for Sherwood Forest and West Bay Road. An expendable trust fund was established and used for winter road layout and he wanted to verify no work had been completed on this section. Scott stated that the section of road has not been maintained since the 1960's.

Scott informed the Board that Pauli Point has been laid out by the Selectmen. He would still like to see the section of Huckins reclaimed from the pavement on Huckins to Don Soapes prior residence, then also East Danforth and Haverhill Street, both of which are experiencing pavement breakup of

Correspondence:

Letter – McLane Middleton re: Subpoena for documents State of NH vs 3M Corp	Reviewed
Letter – Susan Harris re: 3 Ossipee Lake Road settlement for services	Reviewed
Email – Eric Brungot re: Constitution Day request	Reviewed
Receipt – Tax payment as agreed	Reviewed
Newsletter – NHMA Legislative Bulletin No. 10	Reviewed

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen N. White, Town Administrator

Approved by the Board of Selectmen on _____:

Leslie R. Babb

Ernest F. Day, Jr.

Melissa M. Florio